GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3544
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
CUTTING OF TREES
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA;PUNNULAL MOHALE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that timber trees are being cut illegally on large scale each year from the forests in the country particularly Madhya Pradesh and timber mafias are operating in the forest areas;

(b) if so, the value of forest wood cut and sold illegally during the last three years and the number of timber mafias operating, State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the said deforestation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Major steps taken by the Government to check deforestation are:

1. Government of India is biennially assessing the forest cover of the country through Forest Survey of India since 1987.As per 1999 assessment overall 3896 sq.km. of forest cover has increased as compared to 1997 assessment.

2. Guidelines have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of forests through Joint Forest Management.

3. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land.

4. A centrally sponsored scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods is being implemented to protect and conserve the forests from fire.

5. Special measures for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants and their habitat are being implemented.

6. A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna.

7 Afforestation programme are being undertaken by states as well as under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.